



USAID | **BOLIVIA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID SUPPORT: SANTA CRUZ

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government has a comprehensive assistance program that supports the Bolivian Government's National Development Plan.



Teacher explains to students the importance of vegetables.

*USAID/Bolivia:
working together*

Through its official foreign assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government supports development in several municipalities in the department of Santa Cruz. Projects seek to reduce poverty through economic growth generated by enterprise development and increased productivity; and improve access to health care for the poor. USAID programs create opportunities for marginalized populations, promoting their social and economic inclusion.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POPULATION

In Santa Cruz USAID has supported financial institutions and credit unions through the introduction of innovative and expanded services reaching more clients. Since 2007, new financial branches were opened with USAID support in peri-urban areas outside of the city of Santa Cruz.

Working with the Valleys Foundation (Fundación Valles), small farmers' associations and local governments, USAID supports the Government of Bolivia's National Development Plan in more than 10 municipalities in Santa Cruz, improving the production of hot chili peppers, peaches, peanuts and onions. Using new technologies and organic certification to increase efficiency and improve quality, Bolivian farmers and their families are accessing new niche markets, growing their businesses, and increasing incomes.

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF BOLIVIANS

USAID seeks to improve the health of underserved Bolivians by increasing access to quality health services through the strengthening of public and NGO health facilities and networks. Our program supports the Ministry of Health's policy of extending services to rural areas, with a special focus on family and community health.

In Santa Cruz, the program supports training, technical assistance and provision of equipment to enhance the quality of health services related to maternal and child health and for the prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases, including HIV; as well as to build the capacity of regional and municipal health authorities to manage the health system.

The program supported a network of health volunteers in 18 rural municipalities who reached an estimated 224,000 residents of Santa Cruz with health education and promotion activities

A housing improvement project, financed jointly by municipal governments, the departmental government, and USAID, was designed to improve over 700 houses in Santa Cruz to help protect families against Chagas disease.

In addition, in coordination with local governments, USAID has a program in Santa Cruz aimed at increasing access to quality reproductive health services for adolescents through youth-defined and youth-led initiatives that promote responsible behavior.

USAID has also developed a Municipal Matching Fund to help local governments make investments that will improve the health status of their constituents.

Santa Cruz is the headquarters of long-time USAID partner PROSALUD, which has 14 clinics in the city of Santa Cruz and one in Puerto Quijarro. PROSALUD, with the largest network of private health service providers in the country, conducts over 500,000 consultations nationwide each year. In addition, PROSALUD has provided technical assistance to NGOs in a number of Latin American countries to help them adapt and apply PROSALUD's model for sustainable private-sector health care. USAID also supports CIES, an organization that specializes in reproductive and maternal-child health, which has two of its nine centers in Santa Cruz and Camiri.

ENVIRONMENT

Bolivia has 2.2 million hectares of certified forest, and USAID supports sustainable forestry development activities to help communities profit from this great potential.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In 2006 and 2007, in close coordination with Bolivian authorities, the United States government provided around \$1 million in humanitarian support in response to severe flooding affecting hundreds of families in Yapacaní and other areas of Santa Cruz. Support has continued with the 2008 flooding, with USAID assisting 55 communities in 6 municipalities through the provision of tents, hygiene kits, plastic water containers and mosquito nets.

COMMUNITY FUND

Through a Community Development Activity Fund, USAID supports rural communities with immediate people-level impact small development activities.

This initiative implements small self-help projects responding to the needs of low-income communities in urban and rural areas. The projects have a people-to-people approach and include substantial input from local communities. In Santa Cruz, USAID has supported the development of temporary shelters with children under oncological treatment.